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11/30/01

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

**I. HEADING**

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



284719

**DATE:** November 30, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Polk Street Drum Site

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**POLREP NO:** 1 Initial and Final POLREP

**II. BACKGROUND**

Site ID No.: B5Z9  
Contract/Delivery Order Number: 68-S5-98-02, T.O. 56  
Response Authority: CERCLA  
CERCLIS ID Number: ILN000508200  
NPL Status: Non-NPL  
State Notification: IEPA notified  
Latitude/Longitude: 41°52'25.07 "N/ 87°44'21.94"W  
Start Date: August 6, 2001  
Demobilization Date: October 24, 2001  
Completion Date: October 24, 2001

**III. SITE DESCRIPTION**

Prior to U.S. EPA being on site, the City of Chicago was notified by local residents of the site containing approximately 100 to 150 55-gallon drums in various levels of integrity in a vacant lot at 4547 W. Polk Street, Chicago, Illinois. Many of the drums on-site contained paint and resinous waste. After conducting a site investigation the City of Chicago DOE contracted Heritage Environmental Incorporated (Heritage) to conduct a remediation of the site, which consisted of collecting drum samples for waste characterization, and over-packing the drums for

disposal. During this remediation, approximately 25 drums were over-packed and awaited for disposal.

Investigation of the Polk Street Site by CDOE and Heritage indicated the presence of hazardous waste. Analysis of drum samples collected by Heritage was reported to contain up to 1800 parts per million (ppm) of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB). Another drum was bulging and deteriorating was labeled "V.M.P Naphtha" (a.k.a. Coal Tar). Due to the inaccessibility of some areas due to the accumulation of vegetation and debris, the exact number of drums on-site remains undetermined. From earlier investigation by the city, it was determined that a significant number of the drums were deteriorated, spilled, causing a release of the contents to the underlying soil. The area was found to be accessible to the public; there was no security fencing in place or signs of any kind. U.S. EPA was made aware of the situation and decided to proceed with a site assessment

On July 13, 2001, U.S.EPA conducted a removal assessment at the site. While on site, START conducted reconnaissance and air monitoring of the area utilizing a MultiRae Plus, a Micro-FID, and a Ludlum Model 19 radiation meter. Areas of free liquid and dried paint that had impacted the soil were observed throughout the site. Elevated levels of organic vapors were detected during the reconnaissance. Four (4) drum samples and six (6) soil/debris samples were collected during the assessment. Analytical results indicated elevated levels of chrome and lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds, and liquids that exhibit the characteristic of ignitability. Based on sample results a removal action was warranted at this site due to direct contact threats and potential for fire and explosion.

#### **A. Situation**

The site was fenced by the City of Chicago, and the initial drums overpacked by the City were removed for disposal. The U.S. EPA removal action was initiated on August 6, 2001, and complete October 24, 2001.

#### **Actions Taken**

August 6-10, 2001:

- Containers removed from debris pile and staged for sampling;
- All containers sampled and characterized for disposal;
- All containers with material are overpacked;
- Empty containers are crushed;
- Contaminated soil/debris is excavated and stockpiled.

August 20-21, 2001:

- Remaining containers are overpacked;
- Containers, soil/debris pile, and crushed drum pile are covered with plastic;
- Disposal groups are identified, waste profiles generated, disposal bids requested;
- Demobe from site pending disposal approvals.

October 23-24, 2001:

- Disposal of 90 drums, ~20 cu. yds. of crushed drums and debris, and ~36 cu. yds. of soil/debris;
- Demobe all personnel and equipment from site.

#### **C. Next Steps**

Complete cost accounting and close out activities.

#### **D. Key Issues**

No key issues

### **V. COST INFORMATION**

Estimated contractor costs as of September 21, 2001:

	<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Spent</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
Weston START	\$ 17,500	\$5,543	\$11,957
U.S. EPA	\$ 14,100	8,000	\$ 6,100
ERRS	\$ 129,980	\$75,000	\$ 54,980

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report is written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES :**

<u>WASTE</u>	<u>VOLUME</u>	MANIFEST	<u>DISPOSAL</u>
Hazardous Waste	69 containers	MI8503961	Petro-Chem Processing Detroit, MI
Flammable Liquids			
Flammable Liquids	21 containers	02330501	Safety Kleen Deer Park, TX
Empty drums	20 cu. yds.	IL7171948	Waste Management/CID Chicago, IL
Soil/debris	18 cu. yds.	IL10071976	Waste Management/CID Chicago, IL
Soil/debris	18 cu. yds.	IL10071974	Waste Management/CID Chicago, IL